

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-39 (canceled)

Claim 40 (previously presented): A method of identifying an agent capable of modulating GD domain mediated heterodimerization, comprising carrying out a heterodimerization assay which includes a first polypeptide and a second polypeptide, wherein the first polypeptide is SEQ ID NO: 36 and the second polypeptide is Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>, and an agent; determining whether said agent inhibits or augments heterodimerization of said first polypeptide to said second polypeptide; wherein if inhibition or augmentation of heterodimerization is determined, it indicates that said agent is capable of modulating GD domain mediated heterodimerization.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is labeled.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is present in a fusion protein:

Claim 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 42, wherein said fusion protein is GST-Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 44 (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein said agent inhibits heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 with Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein said agent augments heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 with Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A method of identifying a GD domain-mediated heterodimerization modulator comprising incubating a test compound with a polypeptide

consisting **essentially** of SEQ ID NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>, and assaying for inhibition or activation of binding between SEQ ID NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 47 (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein said Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is labeled.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein said Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> is present in a fusion protein.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method of claim 48, wherein said fusion protein is GST- Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 50 (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein said agent inhibits heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 51 (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein said agent augments heterodimerization of SEQ ID NO: 36 and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub>.

Claim 52 (currently amended): A method of identifying an agent capable of modulating apoptosis in a cell, said method comprising assaying an ability of the agent to modulate a heterodimerization activity between a GD domain of a protein or a polypeptide, selected from the group consisting of Bak, Bax and Bip1a, wherein said protein or polypeptide comprises a GD domain and exhibits cell killing activity and Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> binding, and a Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> protein or a polypeptide, wherein the heterodimerization activity is defined by an ability of the GD domain to interact with the Bcl-x<sub>L</sub> protein or a polypeptide, and measuring an increase or decrease in the heterodimerization activity, thereby identifying said agent capable of modulating apoptosis in the cell.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The method of claim 52, wherein the GD domain consists **essentially** of SEQ ID NO:36.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein the increase in heterodimerization activity represents an increase in apoptosis.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein the decrease in heterodimerization activity represents a decrease in apoptosis.